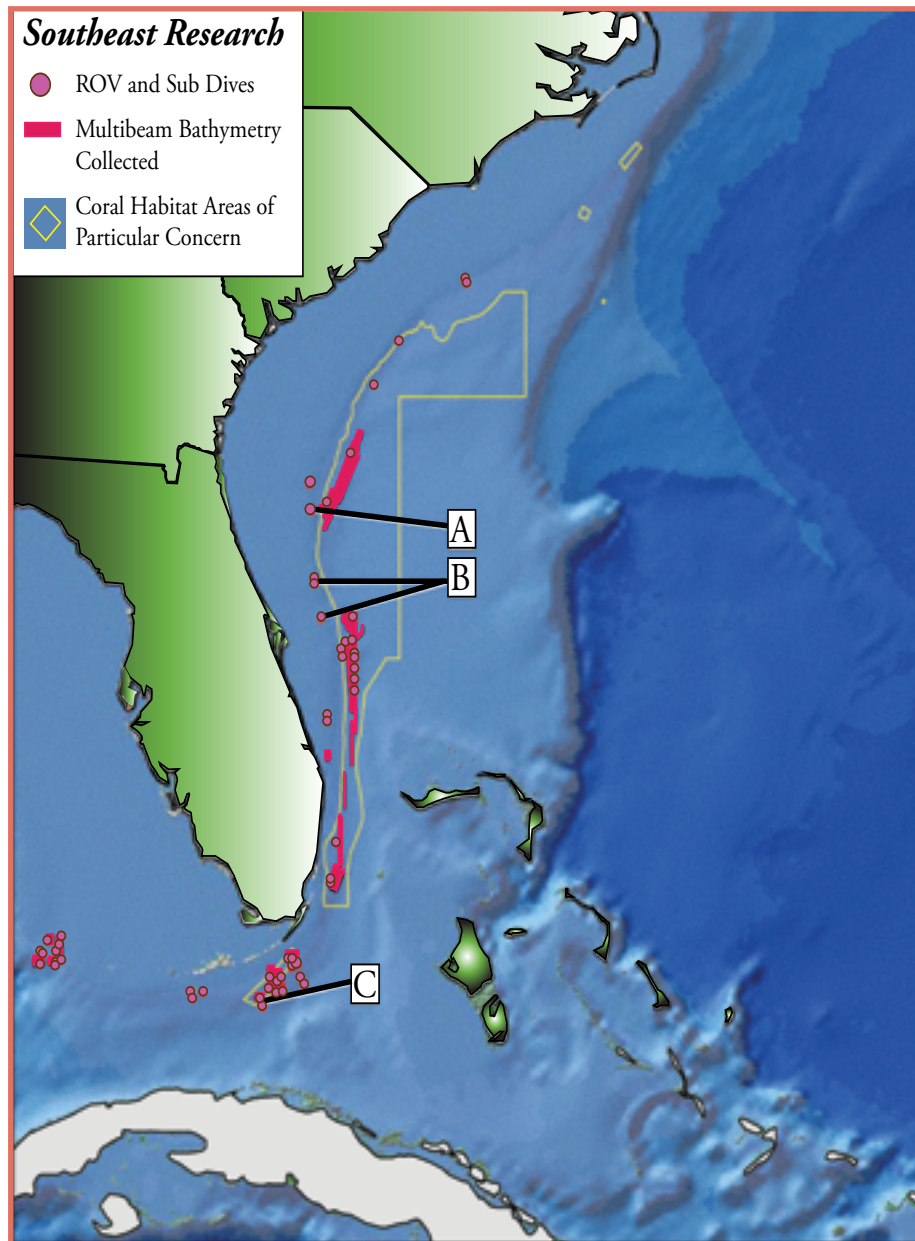
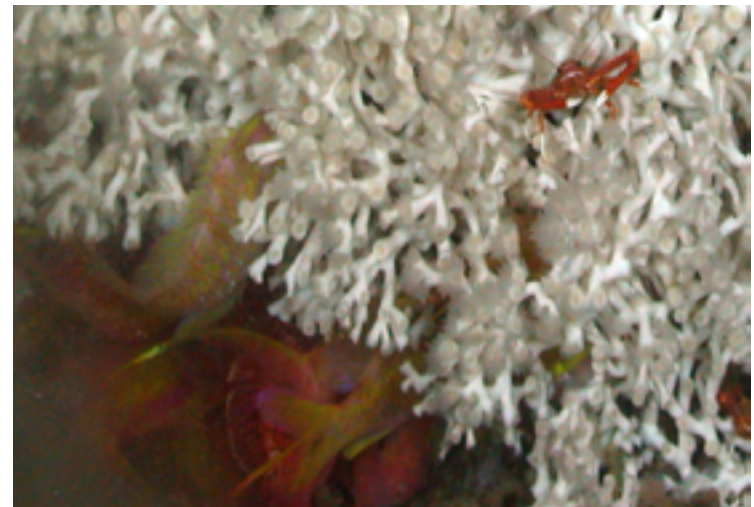


Fig 1: The Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program unveiled deep-sea coral ecosystems in the Southeast



N OAA and partners used a wide range of high-tech tools to find and study deep-sea coral reef ecosystems off the southeastern United States in 2009-2011 with support from the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program. The study consisted of seven research cruises and post-cruise analyses of the videos, photos and biological samples collected.

Locations where the program conducted 58 ROV and submersible dives are in pink. Areas where the program mapped the seafloor with multi-beam, totaling 1,480 square miles, are in red. The highlights of the preliminary findings to date are:



A. Off Jacksonville, Florida, scientists discovered the shallowest *Lophelia pertusa* coral habitat in the United States to date, at approximately 660 ft (200 m) depth. Occurring globally, *Lophelia pertusa* is an important reef-forming deep-sea coral.